

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 2004/001198
filed on June 9, 2004.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0000.8] Field of the Invention

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The invention relates to a hydraulic coupler for a fuel injection valve **of the type**, having a booster piston that can be coupled to an actuator, in particular a piezoelectric actuator, and having an additional booster piston that can be coupled to a nozzle needle; a lifetime filling of a hydraulic fluid is provided between the two booster pistons to hydraulically couple the two booster pistons to each other. The invention also relates to a fuel injection valve **employing such a hydraulic coupler**.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] Hydraulic couplers **are known and** serve to compensate for temperature differences between the actuator and the nozzle needle. The term lifetime filling **as used herein** is intended to mean that the coupler is filled with hydraulic fluid before being placed into service and this filling is neither replaced nor replenished over the entire service life. As a

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result, strict requirements must be met with regard to its leakproofness. Conventional couplers are often complex in design and/or expensive to fill.

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Another preferred exemplary embodiment of the coupler is characterized in that the annular chamber is ~~partially~~ delimited in the axial direction by the other piston and by a stationary housing. This arrangement is particularly easy to implement from a production engineering standpoint.

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] ~~Drawings~~ **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Other **features and** advantages[[.]] ~~defining characteristics, and details~~ of the invention [[ensue]] **will become apparent** from the ~~following~~ description **contained herein below**, in which an exemplary embodiment is described in detail with reference to the drawings, **in which:** [[.]] ~~The defining characteristics mentioned in the claims and in the specification can be essential to the present invention either individually or in arbitrary combinations with one another.~~

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiment~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] One end of the second booster piston 7 is guided in the blind hole 9 in a sealed fashion. This guidance permits the two booster pistons 6 and 7 to move in relation to each other in the axial direction. The end surface 12 of the second booster piston 7 oriented toward the first booster piston 6 to delimit ~~delimits~~ a booster chamber 14 in the blind hole 9. The booster chamber 14 is filled with a hydraulic fluid such as silicone oil in order to permit a hydraulic coupling between the two booster pistons 6 and 7.

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] A central through hole or bore 28 is provided in the second booster piston 7, extending in the direction of the longitudinal piston axis. A throttle 29 with a restricted cross section is provided at the end of the through hole 28 oriented toward the booster chamber 14. A diametrical expansion 30 with an internal thread is provided at the other end of the through hole 28. In the region of the convoluted bellows 17, a cross bore 32 leads from the through hole 28 to the additional enclosure 15. At the end oriented away from the booster chamber 14, the central through hole 28 is ~~[[a]]~~ sealed shut by a ball-shaped sealing element 34 that is pressed against an associated seat by a screw 36 that is screwed into the internal thread of the diametrical expansion 30.

Page 7, please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] In Fig. 2, it is clear that the convoluted bellows 17 can be radially deformed in the direction of an arrow 40 as the additional enclosure 15 is filled. Such a radial deformation of

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the convoluted bellows 17 is indicated by the reference numeral 17'. The deformation of the convoluted bellows 17 toward 17' makes it possible for an initial stress to be exerted [[on]] by the filling pressure in the additional enclosure 15. This initial stress also prevails in the booster chamber 14 via the cross bore 32, the through hole 28, and the throttle 29.

Page 8, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0032]:

[0033] The foregoing relates to a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.